

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 02035 281708Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 SAB-02 /046 W  
-----014140 282036Z /50  
R 281622Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6294  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 2035

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS PANAMA O R 281622Z MAR 78 SENT ACTION USINFO  
WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.--GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MATUTINO AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT  
LA ESTRELLA CARRY A CORRECTED TEXT OF THE ENTIRE MARCH 16 SENATE  
RESOLUTION WITH ALL AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS AND UNDERSTANDINGS.  
BOTH CARRY THE TEXT FOR THE SECOND TIME "BY POPULAR DEMAND"  
WITHOUT MENTIONING THE OMISSION OF "IN PANAMA" FROM THE "DECONCINI  
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AMENDMENT" IN YESTERDAY'S VERSION. (SEE MARCH 27 USINFO)

2-LA ESTRELLA AND SISTER STAR AND HERALD FRONT-PAGE THE LENGTHY  
MARCH 27 TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE WHICH BEGINS, "UP ROSE THE SENATE'S  
SILVER-HAIRED MAJORITY LEADER." ONE RADIO COMMENTATOR THIS  
MORNING, JUAN CARRETE ON RADIO MUSICAL, WAS SO FASCINATED WITH THE  
TIME ARTICLE HE DEVOTED TWENTY MINUTES TO READING THE ENTIRE PIECE

ON THE AIR THIS MORNING.

3-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA, OFTEN A SOUNDING BOARD FOR GOP POLICY, SPOKE CLEARLY IN ITS EDITORIAL MARCH 28 ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR A NEW PLEBISCITE IN PANAMA. ACCORDING TO CRITICA: "WE WANT TO BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR WITH REGARD TO THE RESERVATIONS, UNDERSTANDINGS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE TREATY WHICH THE AMERICAN SENATE HAS JUST APPROVED. WE CONSIDER THAT IN THE LIGHT OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL STATUTE WHICH PROVIDED FOR A PLEBISCITE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES, ANY ADDITIONS TO THOSE TREATIES MADE BY THE AMERICAN SENATE WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO A PLEBISCITE IN PANAMA."

4-CRITICA CONTINUES: "SOME OF THOSE AMENDMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE, SUCH AS THE ONE AGREED TO BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND GENERAL TORRIJOS BEFORE THE CONFIRMING PLEBISCITE. BUT THERE IS ONE, BECAUSE IT AFFECTS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF PANAMA IN THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL AFTER THE YEAR 2000, THAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AND EVEN MORE SO WHEN THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES IS CAUSED BY THE TEMPORARY CLOSING OF THE CANAL, SOMETHING WHICH HAS HAPPENED MORE THAN ONCE TO ITS CURRENT 'OWNERS.'"

5-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CRITICA CONCLUDES: "WE WILL MAKE A STUDY OF THOSE AMENDMENTS SO THAT THEIR ERRORS WILL BECOME EVIDENT. MEANWHILE THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT CAN ALSO PREPARE ITS REPLY DULY APPROVED BY THE VEREDICT OF THE GENERAL POPULACE, UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT IS IF PRESIDENT CARTER CANNOT MAKE DISAPPEAR THE HUMILIATING AND INTOLERABLE IN THOSE AMENDMENTS." ITEM UNQUOTE  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MEDIA REACTIONS FOLLOWING FROM USIS PANAMA O R 281622Z MAR 78 SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE  
WASHDC REPEATED TO YOU  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PN  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014